



H9 – Nurse sow (for excess piglets what have get already colostrum)

A nurse sow for new born piglets can save excess piglets life. An optimum nurse sow:

1. is a first or second parity sow.
2. is a two-step nurse sow, what have farrowed 4 - 8 days ago.
3. accepts the piglets.
4. has enough available teats for the piglets.
5. has a good body condition.
6. has taken good care of her own piglets.
7. get not more new piglets than she has given out.
8. nursing piglets have received enough colostrum and are vitality.
9. has moved to the piglets if farrowing groups are operated by sections.



The nurse sow has accept the piglets

An inadequate nurse sow:

- is an old sow.
- has already lactated three weeks before receiving the new born piglets.
- doesn't accept the piglets.
- is skinny or very fat.
- is sick.



The nurse sow has not accept the piglets.



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Extra comments – Nurse sow

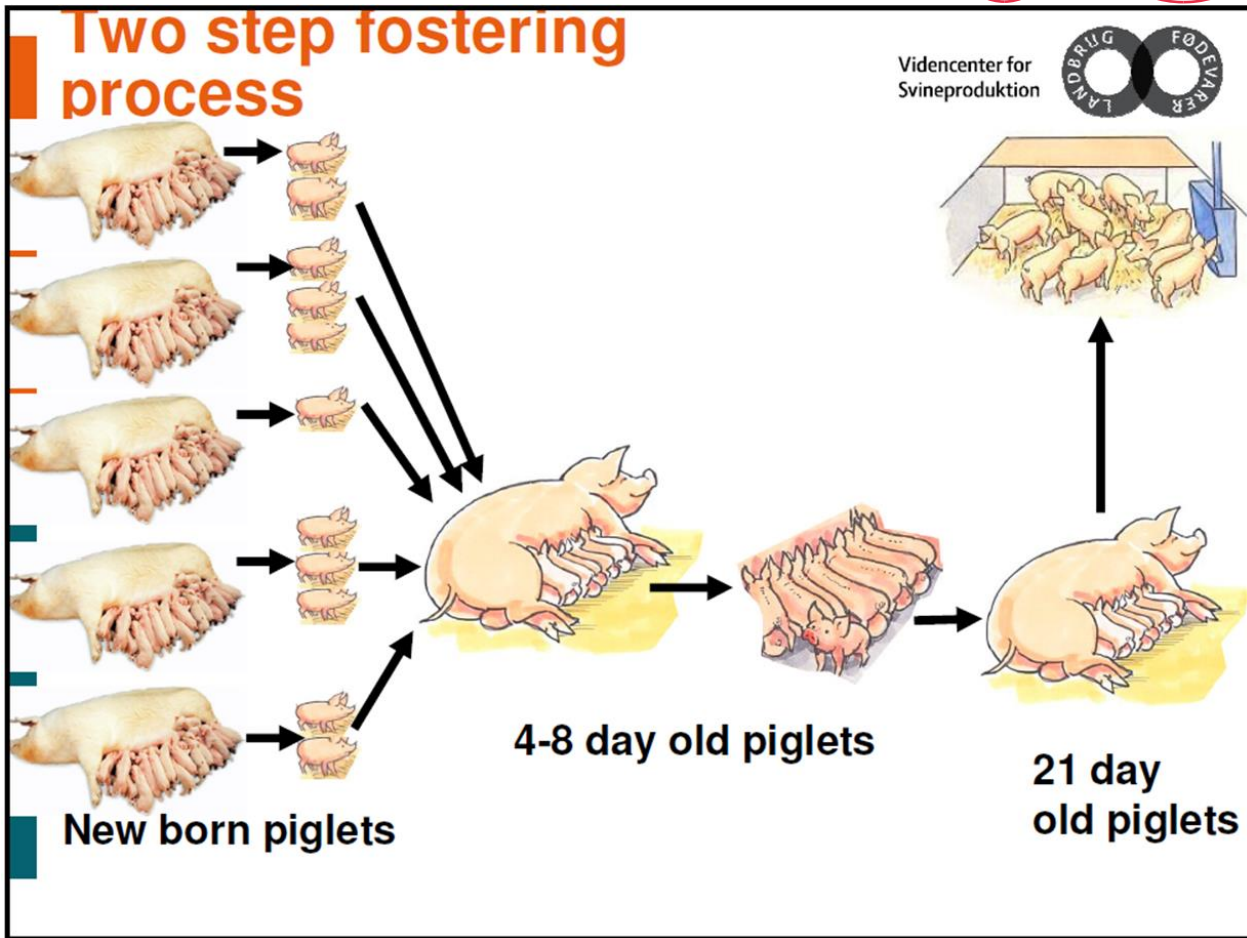
1. A first or second parity sow usually accepts the piglets within reasonable time. In herds with diarrhoea, you may get problems, if you use first parity sows for nurse sows. It is furthermore likely that a sow what are older than second parity and have earlier be a good nurse sow, will quickly accept new piglets.
2. A sow what has lactated 4-8 days is better to accepting day-old piglets, than a sow what has lactated already 21 days. That's why, wean first sow's piglets what have at least 21 days old. Move to that sow litter where piglets are 4 – 8 days old. That sow where you move out 4 – 8 days old piglets will become nurse sow for excess new born piglets that have received colostrum from their own mother. (See below 12 - Two-step nurse sow.)
3. Give the sow some straw to calm her. If 1-2 of her own piglets stay in the litter for the first hour, the new piglets will be quicker in getting to the udder.
4. The nurse sow's udder must fit the nursing piglets: small teats for small piglets, large teats for large piglets. Check that farrowing cage is not prevent piglets access to the udder.
5. The nurse sow, and especially the intermediate nurse sow, must have a good body condition score and eat well to be able to handle the extra nursing period.
6. The nurse sow and the intermediate nurse sow must have taken good care of their own piglets, so that they have proven a good milk yield.
7. Do not give a nurse sow more piglets than she has given out. The nurse sow and the intermediate nurse sow do not have more active mammary glands than the number of piglets than she has given out.
8. Do not move excess new born piglets to the nursing sow, before them have get enough colostrum from their mother. Nursing piglets can be moved 12 hours after birth. All nursing piglets should be moved within 36 hours after birth. After 36 hours, it is too late to cross-fostering. If the sow had more piglets than she had teats for, the smallest piglets will not have received colostrum. Often takes 3 - 8 hours before the nursing sow and intermediate sow give milk for the first time to the piglets, that's why the nursing piglets must be enough strong.
9. In a sectioned farrowing room -system, move the nurse sow and the intermediate nurse sow to a pen where the piglets have born. The nurse sow brings less pathogen bacteria than the piglets. Also the piglets will come to wean at the same time as the other piglets in the section.

Note!

Transferring of piglets and the period when the sow does not nurse can initiate those sow's heat what have weaning their own piglets. As a result, the nurse sow or the foster sow may reach heat on the day of weaning or later than the other sows. It is recommended to mark the nurse sows with an A so that you can keep an extra attention of those animals. (See H26 - Communication between the farrowing facility and other sections)



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